

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-51, 54-61, 71-77, 79-80, 82-87, 89, and 90 are pending in the application. Claim 91 has been cancelled. Claims 17, 37, 44, 51, and 71 are independent.

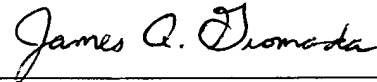
The undersigned and inventor Walter Raghunathan would like to thank Examiner Merek for the cordial and productive interview of February 3, 2005. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

As discussed at the interview, the claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' attorney, Richard P. Bauer, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Gromada". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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